

What is a Celt and who are the Glasgow Celtics?

The people who made up the various tribes of concern were called *Galli* by the Romans and *Galatai* or *Keltoi* by the Greeks, terms meaning *barbarian*. It is from the Greek *Keltoi* that Celt is derived. Since no soft c exists in Greek, Celt and Celtic and all permutations should be pronounced with a hard k sound.

It is interesting to note that when the British Empire was distinguishing itself as better and separate from the rest of humanity, it was decided that British Latin should have different pronunciation from other spoken Latin. Therefore, one of these distinguishing pronounciational differences was to make many of the previously hard k sounds move to a soft s sound, hence the Glasgow and Boston Celtics. It is the view of many today that this soft c pronunciation should be reserved for sports teams since there is obviously nothing to link them with the original noble savagery and *furor* associated with the Celts.